



Weekly Wire
News from East Asia and Pacific
May 21, 2013

AUSTRALIA: Science Literacy

The Australian Academy of Science's education program for primary schools, Primary Connections, has completed its full suite of 31 units designed to help teachers engage children in hands-on science. Supported by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, the program is making a significant contribution to high quality science education across Australia. The units are now being used in more than 50% of Australian primary schools.

<http://science.org.au/news/media/10may13.html>

AUSTRALIA: Sea Level and Migratory Birds

Millions of birds that stop at coastal wetlands during annual migrations could die as rising sea levels and land reclamation wipe out their feeding grounds. A team of the government-backed National Environmental Research Program said some areas have already reported alarming population losses of 30-80%. The researchers studied wetlands along migration routes across Alaska, Russia, China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. In many cases rapid coastal development and reclamation for agriculture were decreasing the area of tidal wetlands the birds use as feeding grounds on their long journeys, which sometimes extend half way around the world.

<http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/news/media-releases/>

JAPAN: 100 Times Faster than K

The Education Ministry (MEXT) plans to develop a next-generation supercomputer, which will be 100 times faster than the present "K" model operated by RIKEN, with the goal of launching an "Exa-scale" advanced prototype in 2020. As supercomputers are a barometer of a nation's scientific and technological capabilities, the US, China and other countries are also planning to develop exaflop-capable machines by 2020.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/05/10/national/japans-next-supercomputer-to-be-100-times-faster-than-k/>

JAPAN: S&T Policy in South Korea

A seminar was hosted by the National Institute for Science and Technology Policy in Tokyo on May 10 for those interested in South Korea's S&T policy under the new Park administration. South Korea has increased its numbers of scientific papers and patent applications significantly in the past decade and possesses world-class technologies in information technology. The newly created Ministry of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Future Planning (MSIP) will be the primary government agency responsible for South Korea's economic growth and job creation. The newly appointed MSIP Minister is Dr. Choi Mun Kee who earned his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University and formerly a professor at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

KOREA: Taekwondo Degree to System-on-Chip Robot Winner

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology will host the Intelligent System-on-Chip (SoC) Robot War in October 2013. At the same time, the World Taekwondo Headquarters will offer an honorary Taekwondo degree to the winner of SoC Taekwondo Robot.

<http://www.kaist.edu/edu.html>

KOREA: Fundamental Science as Basis for Innovation

The first International Science and Business Belt (ISBB) Forum entitled “Fundamental Science as Basis for Innovation” will be held on May 28, organized by the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) and the Institute for Basic Science (IBS).

http://www.ibs.re.kr/en/news/notice.jsp?mode=view&article_no=20130503183237883410&board_wrapper=%2Fen%2Fnews%2Fnotice.jsp&pager.offset=0&board_no=31

NEW ZEALAND: High School Students Experience Science Overseas

Out of 200+ applications from senior secondary school students, the Royal Society of New Zealand has selected six students to attend the Harry Messel International science school in Sydney to study nanotechnology for two weeks in July; another six will go to the Australia-New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science in Hobart, Australia in early July; five students will travel to the London International Youth Science Forum for two weeks then travel to Switzerland to discover the excitement of fundamental science research at CERN in Geneva; and two students will go to the International Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama in July.

<http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/2013/05/10/students-selected-to-attend-professor-harry-messel-international-science-school-4/>

SINGAPORE: Innovations in the Energy and Marine Industries

Lloyd’s Register and the A*STAR Institute of High Performance Computing (IHPC) have jointly opened a laboratory. The joint laboratory will leverage IHPC’s capabilities in computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and engineering mechanics to develop computational modeling and simulation, and technical solutions for businesses in the marine, energy and offshore sectors. Some of the joint projects, which rely on numerical modeling using CFD tools, include wave-in-deck impact analysis on offshore structures, floating offshore wind turbines’ operating in deep water areas and enhancement of virtual wave tank and deep ocean basin capabilities.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/?TabId=828&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1812>

SINGAPORE: GET-Up Program

Launched in 2003, A*STAR’s Growing Enterprises through Technology Upgrade (GET-Up) program has benefited over 400 companies across the electronic, information and communication, chemical and biomedical science clusters. The flagship technical assistance initiative assigns technical experts to companies, and, to date, 413 researchers have been seconded to more than 240 companies. A recent survey revealed that these companies had a 7% increase in sales revenue growth and a 15% increase in employment growth in the past three years; 79% had launched new products with 52% launching two or more new products.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/?TabId=828&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1813>